Living To Please God

Tony Mauck · 1 Thessalonians 4:1–12

INTRODUCTION

- The very things that Paul proclaimed at Thessalonica two millennia ago are still the essential things that are the basis of all that we're about.
- One of the most glowing epistles in the New Testament is the one written to the church in Thessalonica.
- Notice that a relationship with Jesus Christ, that being in Christ should eventuate in three things the work of faith, the labor of love, and the steadfastness of hope.

1 The Twice Repeated Phrase: Excel Still More

1 Thessalonians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:10; Ephesians 1:18–19

- Brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you receive from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God, just as you actually do walk, that you may excel still more.
- But it was no reason to rest on their laurels or to become complacent.
- We should never plateau or become satisfied with the progress we've made, the things we have learned, or the church that we enjoy.
- There are yet more souls to be saved. There are more battles to be won. There are yet others to be served.
- We become complacent and sluggish and plateau when our enlightenment fails.
- May we never fail to be impressed by that. Stay impressed.

2 With a Great Calling Comes Great Responsibility

1 Thessalonians 4:3–8; 1 Thessalonians 4:9–10; 1 Thessalonians 4:11–12

- This is the will of God. One word does it sanctification. It just means that God has set us apart for a specific purpose.
- I've got to learn something. I've got to figure this out. I've got to make some plans. I've got to work toward this. I've got to know how to possess my vessel in honor.
- As to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.
- Instead of being self-serving, think about something that you can do to help your brother along the way.
- The more we focus on others, the less focused we'll be on ourselves.
- Live quietly, mind your own affairs, work with your hands, and watch the way you're interacting with other people.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you pressing? Toward the mark. For the prize, toward the goal.

MY NOTES